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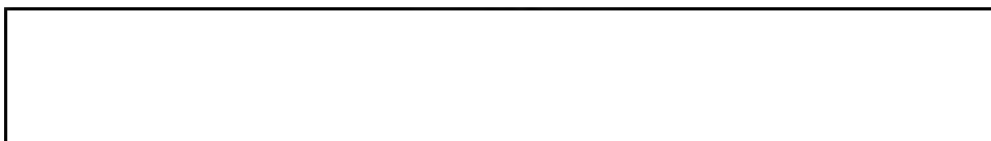
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Chile Loses UN Elections--Even When Running
Against Itself 5

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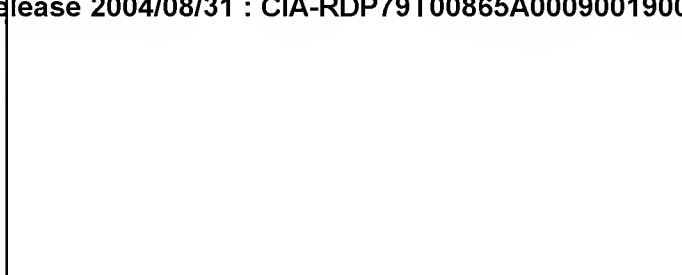
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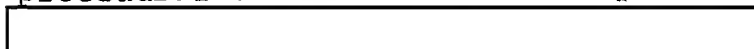
Chile Loses UN Election--Even When Running
Against Itself

The Soviet campaign to isolate and embarrass Chile in international forums has been raised to new heights of absurdity at the UN. In an election yesterday in one of the Economic and Social Council's subsidiary commissions, Chile lost its bid for a seat--even though it was the only candidate.

Elective positions in UN organs are usually divided among the five regional groups (Latin America, Asia, Africa, East Europe, West Europe and Others). Only when the regional group concerned cannot agree on a slate of candidates for its allocated positions is the entire UN membership called upon to settle the deadlock by vote. In yesterday's action, Uruguay withdrew its candidacy for the Human Rights Commission, leaving Chile the uncontested--and regionally supported--candidate for the seat.

The Soviets, however, demanded a secret vote and with the help of their East European allies voted Uruguay into the position. The chairman of the meeting subsequently upheld this Soviet procedural finagling and despite objections by a number of delegations, Uruguay will keep the position on the commission.

The Brazilian judgment on yesterday's election--"the rules are an ass"--reflects the frustration of many UN members with the almost constant political manipulations that go on in UN meetings. But when given their own opportunities to manipulate, such criticism of procedural violations is usually muted.



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West Germans Reassess Their Policy on
Troop Reductions

As prospects improve for some progress later this year in the Vienna troop reduction negotiations, West German officials are increasingly concerned that any future agreement may be disadvantageous to the Federal Republic. The Germans believe that strong domestic factors preclude any major alteration of Bonn's basically conservative policy in the negotiations.

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For the past year, most officials in Bonn have viewed the talks with considerable skepticism, doubting that reductions in conventional arms would work to West Germany's

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advantage in the long run. Bonn's primary interest in continuing the MBFR negotiations, despite the lack of progress, stems from the fear that other NATO allies might succumb to domestic pressures and make unilateral force reductions should the multilateral talks collapse.

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Bonn and the other West European governments may still have to face Soviet demands for cuts in indigenous forces in the first stage of troop reductions. Officially, the West Germans endorse NATO's goal of limiting first-stage reductions to Soviet and American ground forces.

However, working-level officials have in the past suggested that Bundeswehr reductions in the first stage might be acceptable under certain circumstances, particularly if such reductions could be accomplished without setting a national sub-ceiling. In Bonn's view, the Soviet desire to establish sub-ceilings on national forces is a clear attempt to interfere in the West European defense structure.

The Schmidt government will have to weigh carefully any move in this direction. West Germany, unlike its fellow Western participants in the negotiations, is under no financial or political pressure to reduce its military forces. The opposition Christian

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Democrats would be likely to attack such a decision, claiming that the Social Democrats are making unwarranted concessions to the Soviets.

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